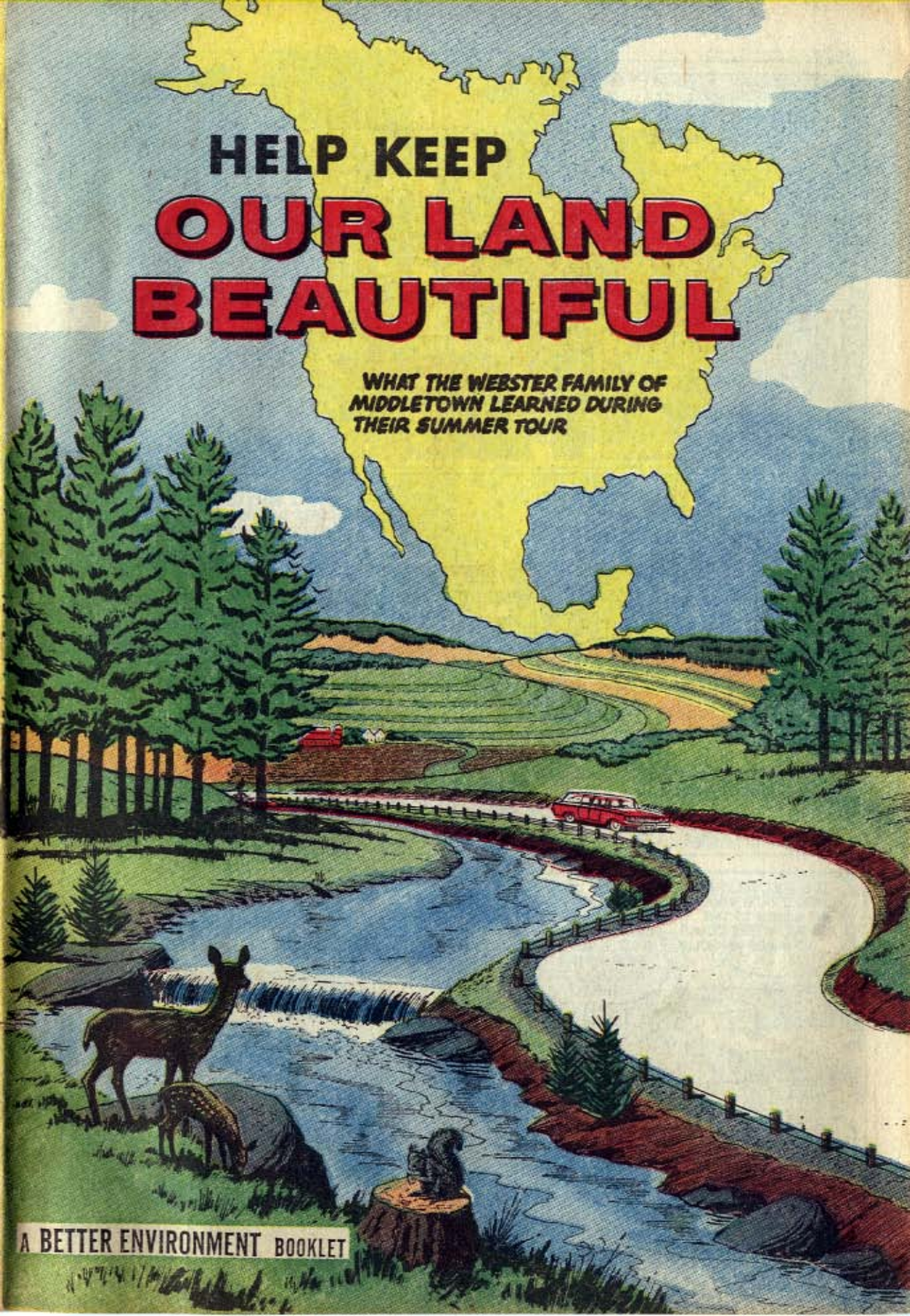
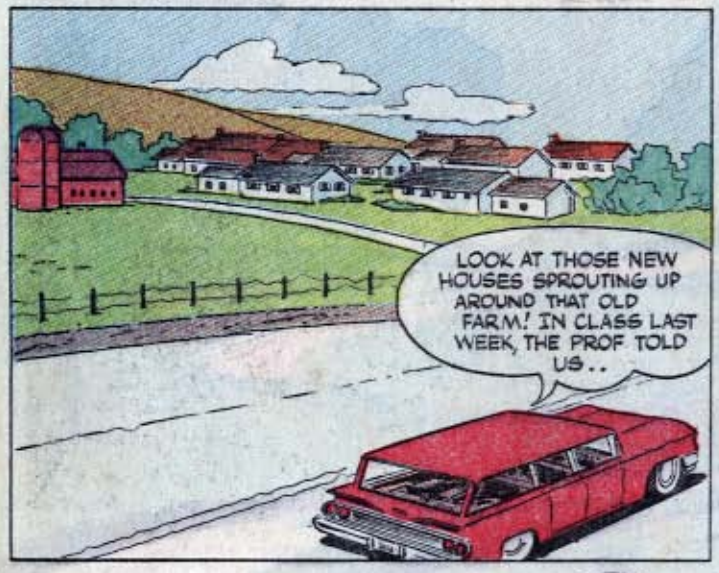
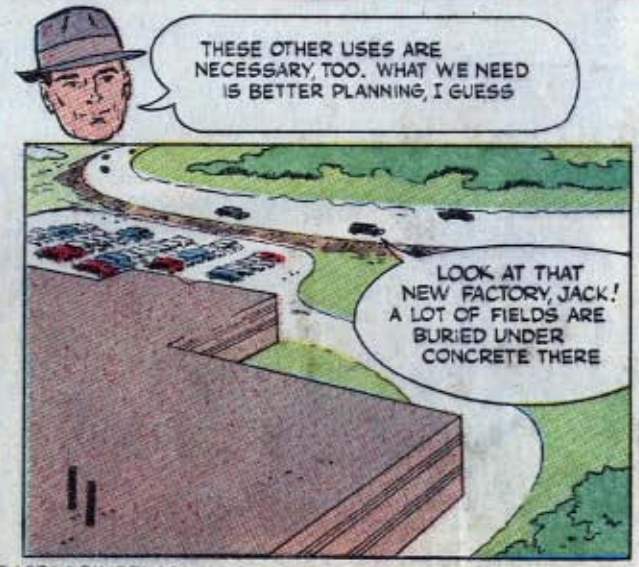
HELP KEEP OUR LAND BEAUTIFUL

WHAT THE WEBSTER FAMILY OF MIDDLETOWN LEARNED DURING THEIR SUMMER TOUR



A BETTER ENVIRONMENT BOOKLET





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LATER THAT DAY...
NOW WE'RE WAY OUT IN THE COUNTRY AND HERE'S OUR FIRST CAMPSITE!

AND WHAT A NICE CAMPSITE IT WOULD BE IF EVERYONE PUT THEIR WASTE PAPER AND EMPTY CANS IN THE TRASH CONTAINERS

AND SEE HOW THEY'VE SPOILED THE LOOKS OF THIS TREE BY CARVING INITIALS PRETTY STUPID, ISN'T IT?

I TOOK 14 PICTURES TODAY FOR MY SCRAPBOOK, "AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL" - ONLY SOME **WEREN'T** BEAUTIFUL! I'M GOING TO START TAKING **CONTRAST PICTURES**
I'M KEEPING A LIST OF UGLY PLACES THAT COULD BE BEAUTIFUL - IF PEOPLE WERE MORE CAREFUL
TIME TO TURN IN! WE'VE GOT A LOT OF AMERICA TO SEE TOMORROW

NEXT MORNING..
DAD! YOU MUST STOP AT THAT BRIDGE SO I CAN TAKE PICTURES OF THAT LOVELY STREAM!
ALL RIGHT, MARY

LOOK AT THOSE DEAD FISH!
ARE YOU MEN TESTING THE WATER?
YES, THIS STREAM HAS BECOME BADLY POLLUTED, WITH WASTE FROM FACTORIES AND SEWAGE. WE'RE SAMPLING THE WATER NOW

THIS USED TO BE ONE OF OUR BEST FISHING PLACES. NOW THE WATER ISN'T REALLY FIT TO SWIM IN. IT'S COSTING THE COMMUNITY MORE AND MORE EVERY YEAR TO MAKE IT FIT TO DRINK

CAN'T SOMETHING BE DONE ABOUT IT?
WE'VE FORMED A POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE WITH MEMBERS FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CIVIC GROUPS, INDUSTRY AND SPORTSMENS' CLUBS. WATER CAN BE PUT BACK INTO THE STREAM CLEAR AND PURE AFTER IT HAS BEEN USED..

BUT HALF OF ALL THE SEWAGE IN AMERICA STILL POURS RAW INTO STREAMS LIKE THIS. AND HALF OF OUR FACTORIES DUMP UNTREATED BY-PRODUCTS INTO STREAMS!

IT WAS TERRIBLE, THE WAY THAT STREAM WAS POLLUTED
BUT HERE'S ONE WHERE PEOPLE ARE FISHING.. AND YET THERE'S A FACTORY THERE, TOO! I WANT A PICTURE OF THAT!
IT'S WORTH STOPPING TO ASK ABOUT!

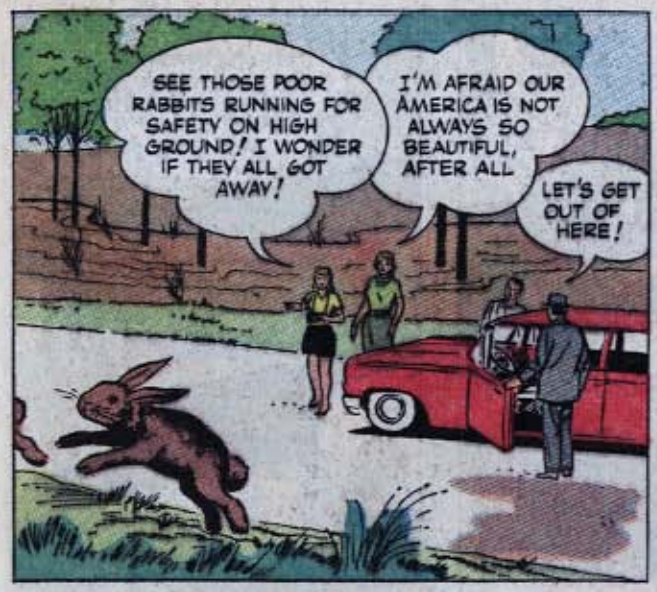
WE'VE PAID THE COST OF OUR POLLUTION WORK IN THIS FACTORY BY SELLING BY-PRODUCTS WE USED TO DUMP IN THE STREAM! THAT PAPER MILL OVER THERE MAKES FUEL OUT OF ITS WASTE PRODUCTS! AND UP THE STREAM..

"A CHEMICAL PLANT FOUND ITS WASTE RICH IN VITAMINS AND STARTED PROCESSING IT AS VITAMIN PILLS!"

OF COURSE IT ISN'T ALWAYS THAT SIMPLE, BUT WHEN PEOPLE SEE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO ALL OF THEM, THEY CAN FIND A WAY TO DO IT!
IT PROVES WE DON'T HAVE TO TURN OUR STREAMS INTO FISH-KILLING EYESORES

LOOK AT THOSE CLOUDS! I'LL BET WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A REAL STORM!
YES WE'D BETTER STOP AND MAKE CAMP FOR THE NIGHT BEFORE IT HITS US!

ALL THAT NIGHT AND ON UNTIL THE NEXT NOON.. RAIN.. AND MORE RAIN
THE ROAD SEEMS SAFE NOW THAT THE RAIN IS OVER..
BUT LOOK AHEAD! THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT DOWN THERE!
WE'D BETTER HELP!
TAKE IT EASY GOING BY! THAT CAR SKIDDED ON SOIL THE RAIN WASHED ONTO THE PAVING! LUCKILY NOBODY WAS BADLY HURT!
THAT FIELD DIDN'T WASH OUT! THAT MUST BE ONE OF THOSE GRASSED WATERWAYS WE LEARNED ABOUT IN SCHOOL
I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT SOIL EROSION COULD BE DANGEROUS AS WELL AS DESTRUCTIVE
A DETOUR! THE HIGHWAY MUST BE UNDER WATER IN THAT VALLEY
DETOUR
LET'S GO SEE THE FLOOD, DAD! WE CAN COME BACK AND TAKE THE DETOUR AFTER I GET SOME PICTURES!
HOW UGLY IT IS.. AND HOW ANGRY!
LOOK AT THAT MUDDY WATER!
ORDINARILY, YOU COULD JUMP ACROSS THIS BROOK! BUT WE HAD A SIX INCH RAIN LAST NIGHT AND THE SOIL COULDN'T ABSORB THE WATER FAST ENOUGH! IT'S RUINING THE ROAD.. THREE BRIDGES WASHED OUT ALREADY AND MORE WATER COMING!
HIGHWAY ENGINEER MIDVALE COUNTY


SEE THOSE POOR RABBITS RUNNING FOR SAFETY ON HIGH GROUND! I WONDER IF THEY ALL GOT AWAY!
I'M AFRAID OUR AMERICA IS NOT ALWAYS SO BEAUTIFUL, AFTER ALL
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

YOU CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER! THIS ROAD IS FLOODED TOO!

WE'RE TRAPPED BETWEEN TWO FLOODED SECTIONS OF HIGHWAY
AND THE WATER IS STILL RISING! WHAT CAN WE DO?
JUST WAIT IT OUT AND TRUST TO LUCK

THOSE POOR ANIMALS! AND THE WATER IS STILL RISING..
NO, THE FLOOD IS PAST ITS CREST.. WE'LL BE GETTING AWAY FROM HERE IN A FEW HOURS

THAT SURE WAS A CLOSE CALL
FOR US, YES, BUT THINK OF THOSE PEOPLE WHOSE HOMES WERE FLOODED AND THEIR CROPS RUINED!
LOOK AT THAT GULLY! WHAT A SHAME TO WASTE ALL THAT FINE SOIL!

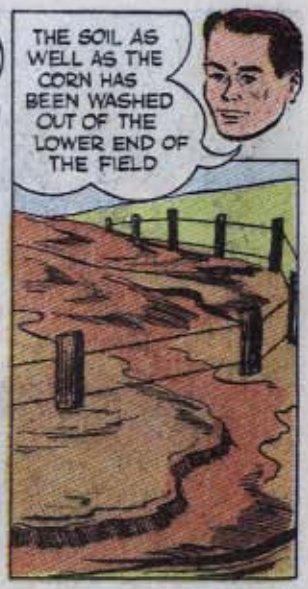
THAT'S ANOTHER PIECE OF LAND THAT WON'T PRODUCE FOOD FOR AWHILE

LOOK HOW THAT FARMER LET WATER DRAIN FROM HIS FIELD ONTO A GRASS CARPET
THE STORM DIDN'T WASH ANY SOIL OUT OF THERE

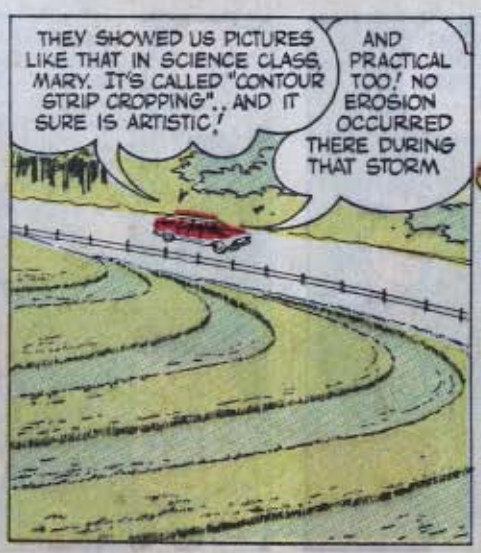
SEE THOSE MEADOWLARKS ON THAT FENCE. THEY MUST HAVE NESTS IN THE GRASS
WHY DON'T ALL FARMERS USE GRASSED WATERWAYS INSTEAD OF GULLIES? THEY NOT ONLY LOOK NICER.. IT'S EASIER TO FARM ACROSS THEM!

SEE THAT TERRACED FIELD! HOW GRACEFULLY THE TERRACES CURVE AROUND THE HILL!
YES, AND THOSE TERRACES ARE FULL OF WATER FROM THE RAIN. NO EROSION THERE!

THERE'S A FIELD THAT OUGHT TO BE TERRACED EVEN THE ROOTS OF THE CORN PLANTS ARE WASHED OUT!


THE SOIL AS WELL AS THE CORN HAS BEEN WASHED OUT OF THE LOWER END OF THE FIELD

LOOK, JACK! THERE IS SOME MORE OF THAT FARMING DONE IN CURVING BANDS AROUND THE HILL


THEY SHOWED US PICTURES LIKE THAT IN SCIENCE CLASS, MARY. IT'S CALLED "CONTOUR STRIP CROPPING".. AND IT SURE IS ARTISTIC!
AND PRACTICAL TOO! NO EROSION OCCURRED THERE DURING THAT STORM

WHY EACH ROW IS HOLDING WATER JUST LIKE A LITTLE DAM!

A FEW DAYS MORE OF TRAVEL.. AND A TOTALLY DIFFERENT TYPE OF SCENE!

WE'RE GETTING INTO THE GREAT PLAINS COUNTRY, NOW!

HOW FLAT THE LAND IS.. AND HOW FAR YOU CAN SEE!

IT'S PRETTY.. IN A DIFFERENT WAY FROM THE MIDWEST. SO BIG IT MAKES YOU FEEL SO SMALL.. BUT IT SURE IS **DRY**

LOOK AT THAT BLACK CLOUD SWEEPING RIGHT AT US! IT MUST BE A DUST STORM!

WE'D BETTER STOP UNTIL IT CLEARS UP. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE TO DRIVE!

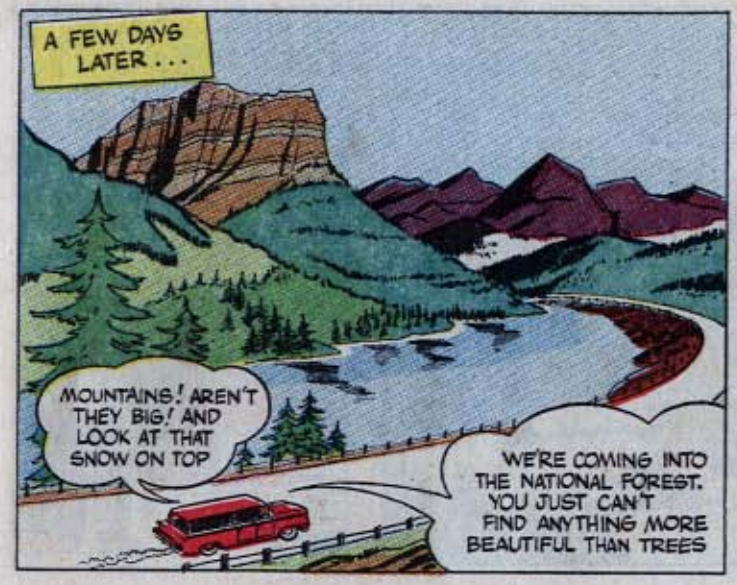
LET'S STOP AND SEE WHAT THE SOIL CONSERVATION PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT WIND EROSION

YOU'VE JUST DRIVEN INTO THE WORST DUST STORM WE'VE HAD ALL YEAR! BUT THEY'RE COMMON IN DROUGHT YEARS LIKE THIS.

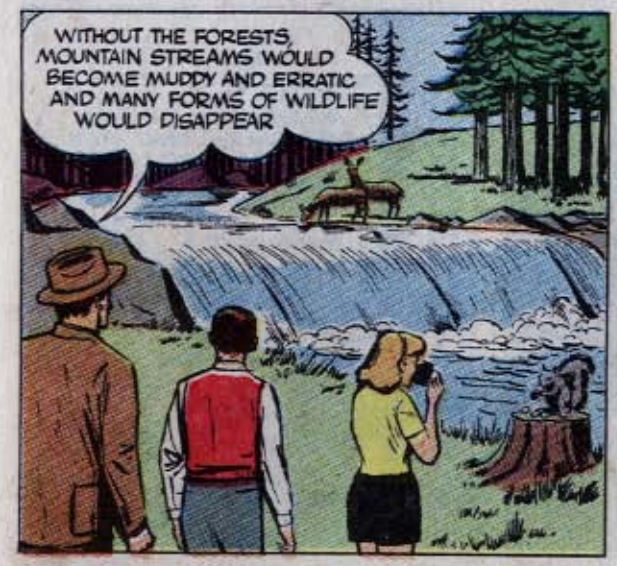
WHAT CAUSES THEM?

A COMBINATION OF DROUGHT AND HIGH WINDS.. WHEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS AREN'T PREPARED FOR THEM. THOSE WHO WERE PREPARED DIDN'T HAVE DUST.. EXCEPT WHATEVER BLEW FROM THEIR NEIGHBORS

SOME LAND SHOULD NOT BE PLOWED AT ALL. GOOD FARMERS KEEP SUCH LAND IN GRASS AND GRAZE IT CAREFULLY. THE BETTER LAND CAN BE PLANTED TO WHEAT AND OTHER FOOD CROPS


A FEW DAYS LATER . . .
MOUNTAINS! AREN'T THEY BIG! AND LOOK AT THAT SNOW ON TOP
WE'RE COMING INTO THE NATIONAL FOREST. YOU JUST CAN'T FIND ANYTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN TREES

TREES HELP CONSERVE SOIL AND WATER. THAT HILLSIDE IS TOO STEEP FOR CROPS. WITHOUT TREES, THE SOIL ON THAT STEEP HILLSIDE WOULD WASH AWAY AND THE STREAM WOULD FILL WITH SILT


WITHOUT THE FORESTS, MOUNTAIN STREAMS WOULD BECOME MUDDY AND ERRATIC AND MANY FORMS OF WILDLIFE WOULD DISAPPEAR

SNOW THAT FALLS IN THE HIGH MOUNTAINS IN WINTER BECOMES IRRIGATION WATER FOR THE FARMERS IN THE SUMMER

WOOD IS ONE OF OUR MOST USEFUL NATURAL RESOURCES. WOOD IS USED. . .
TO MAKE PAPER. .
IN PACKING GOODS FOR SHIPMENT. .
IN BUILDING HOUSES. .
FOR FURNITURE. .
"WE USE MILLIONS OF BOARD FEET OF LUMBER EACH YEAR"

"FORESTS ARE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FOOD AS WELL AS WOOD FOR THEY PROVIDE GRAZING FOR MILLIONS OF CATTLE AND SHEEP HERE IN THE WEST"

THANKS FOR TELLING JACK AND MARY SO MUCH ABOUT THE CARE OF FORESTS

YOU'RE VERY WELCOME. MOST PUBLIC AND PRIVATELY OWNED FORESTS GET GOOD CARE. BUT YOU'LL PROBABLY SEE SOME THAT DON'T

THERE'S A PIECE OF FOREST LAND LIKE THE RANGER MENTIONED, JACK

THAT'S RIGHT. HE SAID THEY SHOULD ONLY HAVE CUT THE MATURE TREES AND LET THE OTHERS GROW

AND THERE'S THE BURNED-OUT AREA, JACK! YOU CAN STILL SMELL THE BURNT WOOD

AND THAT DEAD FAWN COULDN'T RUN FAST ENOUGH TO GET AWAY FROM THE FIRE!

THAT WAS NOT A PRETTY SIGHT. I THINK IT'S NICE THAT WE ARE STARTING HOME

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'LL LIKE, MOTHER...

THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL GRASSLAND SCENE! THE ROLLING PRAIRIES HAVE A BEAUTY ALL THEIR OWN!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER..
HERE WE ARE AT UNCLE LARRY'S FARM!

SO YOU USED THIS TRIP TO STUDY HOW CONSERVING OUR SOIL AND WATER HELPS KEEP OUR COUNTRY BEAUTIFUL
YES, UNCLE LARRY.. BUT SO MUCH NATURAL BEAUTY HAS BEEN SPOILED BY EROSION FLOODS, FIRE, POLLUTION, LITTERING..
WE HARDLY SAW ENOUGH OF THE GOOD TO MAKE UP FOR THE BAD!

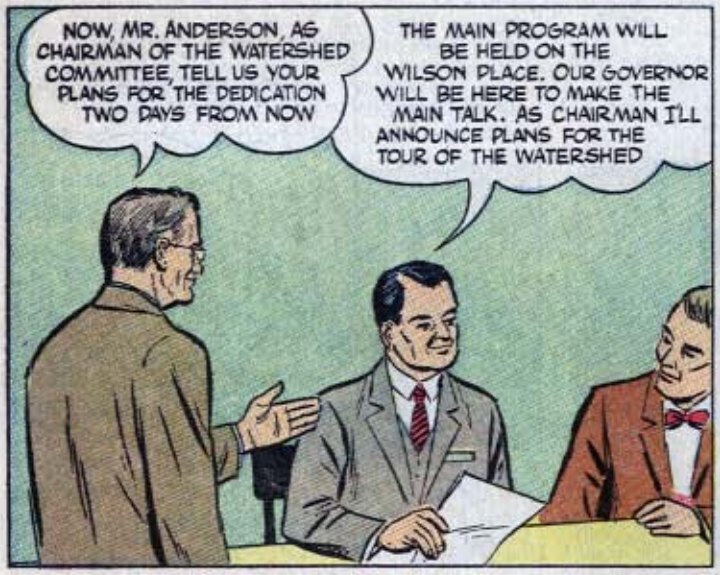
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE THAT WAY?
IT DOESN'T. YOU ARRIVED AT THE RIGHT TIME! TONIGHT OUR SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD IS MEETING TO ARRANGE THE DEDICATION OF OUR SMALL WATERSHED PROJECT. WE'RE REAL PROUD OF IT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LARRY?
HERE, ALL THE FARMERS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE WHOLE VALLEY. WE FEEL THAT WHAT ONE FARMER DOES AFFECTS THE OTHERS

IT TOOK A LOT OF WORK TO PUT IT OVER, BUT YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT IT HAS DONE FOR US AND OUR LAND. IT MAY SHOW OTHERS WHAT THEY CAN DO

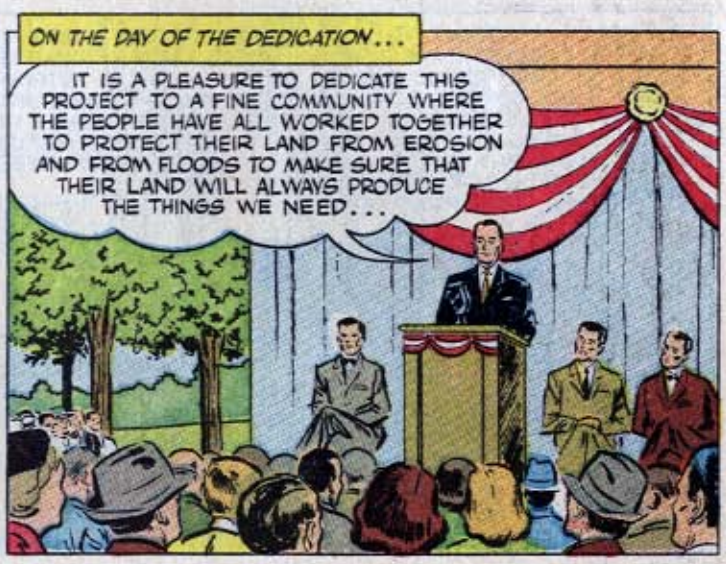
I'M CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND WE'RE HOLDING A MEETING TONIGHT. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH ME?
WE'D LOVE IT!
I'LL SAY

I'LL START BY INTRODUCING MY NEPHEW AND NIECE, JACK AND MARY WEBSTER FROM MIDDLETOWN. THEY HAVE BEEN SEEING OUR COUNTRY AND ARE MAKING A REPORT ON "WHAT MAKES OUR LAND BEAUTIFUL" TO DELIVER AT THEIR SCHOOL


NOW, MR. ANDERSON, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WATERSHED COMMITTEE, TELL US YOUR PLANS FOR THE DEDICATION TWO DAYS FROM NOW
THE MAIN PROGRAM WILL BE HELD ON THE WILSON PLACE. OUR GOVERNOR WILL BE HERE TO MAKE THE MAIN TALK. AS CHAIRMAN I'LL ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR THE TOUR OF THE WATERSHED

MR. WADE, OUR SOIL CONSERVATIONIST, WILL EXPLAIN THE TECHNICAL PART OF THE WORK..WHERE THE DAMS WERE BUILT, HOW THEY WILL FUNCTION AND HOW THE CONSERVATION WORK ON THE LAND ALL TIES TOGETHER

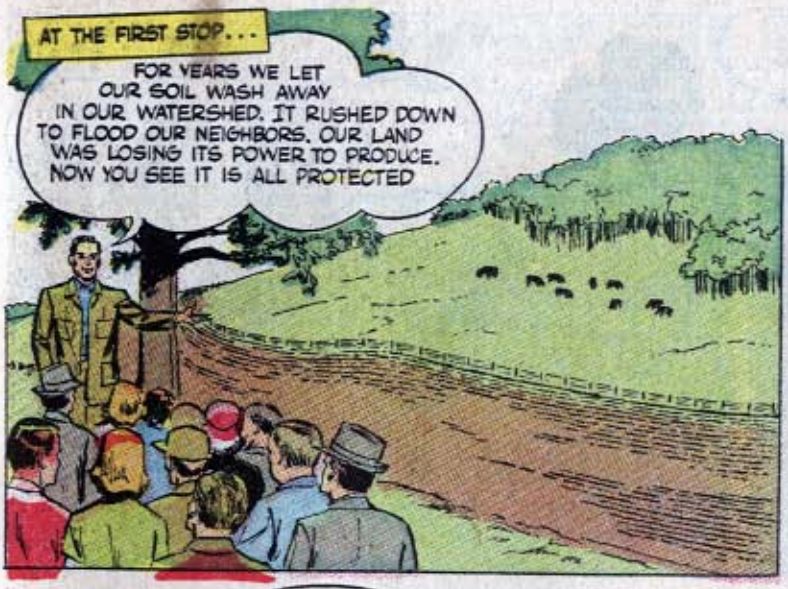
CARS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE TRIP.. AND WE HAVE PLANNED AN AIR TOUR AS WELL
AN EXCELLENT PROGRAM! YOU MEN HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB!


ON THE DAY OF THE DEDICATION...
IT IS A PLEASURE TO DEDICATE THIS PROJECT TO A FINE COMMUNITY WHERE THE PEOPLE HAVE ALL WORKED TOGETHER TO PROTECT THEIR LAND FROM EROSION AND FROM FLOODS TO MAKE SURE THAT THEIR LAND WILL ALWAYS PRODUCE THE THINGS WE NEED...

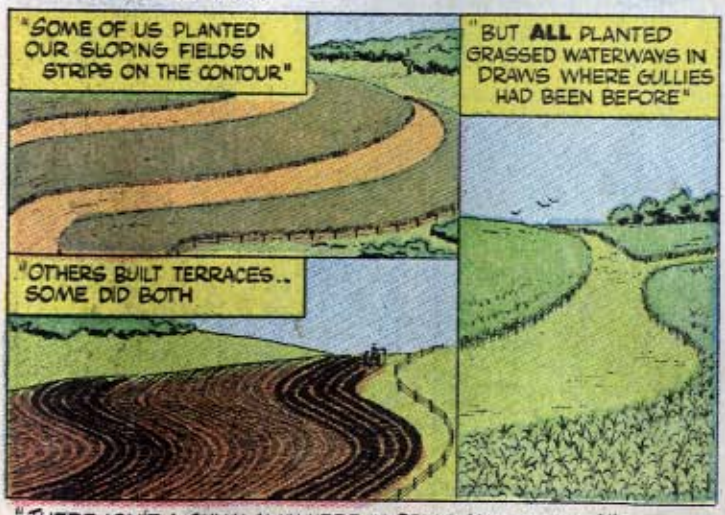
AND I MIGHT ADD THAT THEY HAVE MADE IT A BEAUTY SPOT OF OUR STATE
THANK YOU SIR

THE TOUR OF THE WATERSHED WILL START OVER THERE. YOU WILL SEE CONSERVATION WORK ON THE FARM LAND..AND YOU WILL SEE THE FLOOD RETARDING DAMS THAT HAVE BEEN BUILT TO COMPLETE THE WATERSHED PROTECTION JOB

LET'S GET IN THAT FIRST CAR SO WE WON'T MISS ANYTHING

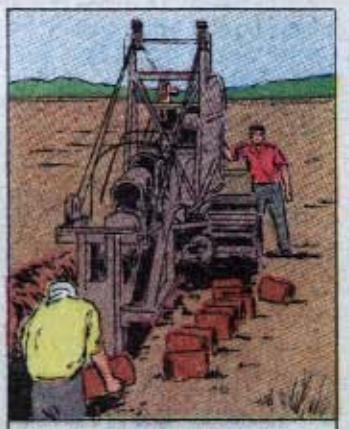


"EACH CONSERVATION PLAN IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT BECAUSE EACH FARM IS DIFFERENT"...



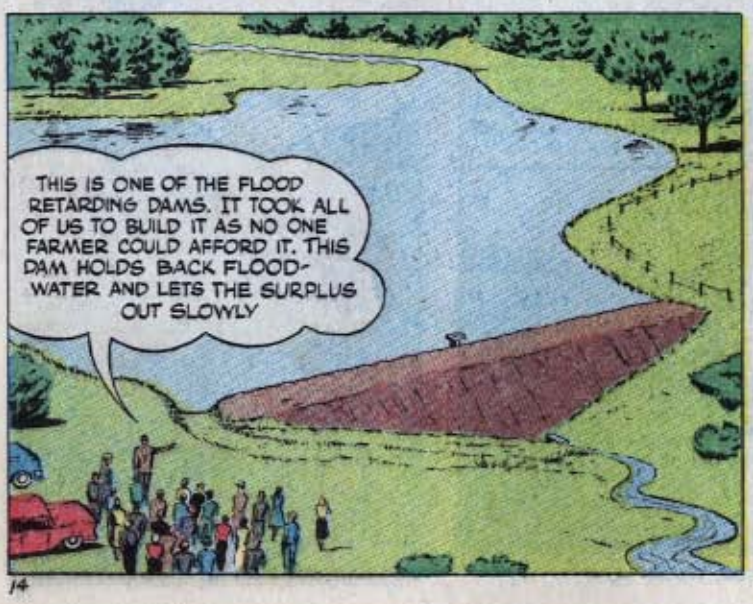
"THERE ISN'T A GULLY ANYWHERE IN CEDAR VALLEY NOW!"

"WE PLANTED TREES AND HEDGES FOR EROSION CONTROL AND TO GIVE FOOD AND PROTECTION TO BIRDS AND SMALL ANIMALS"

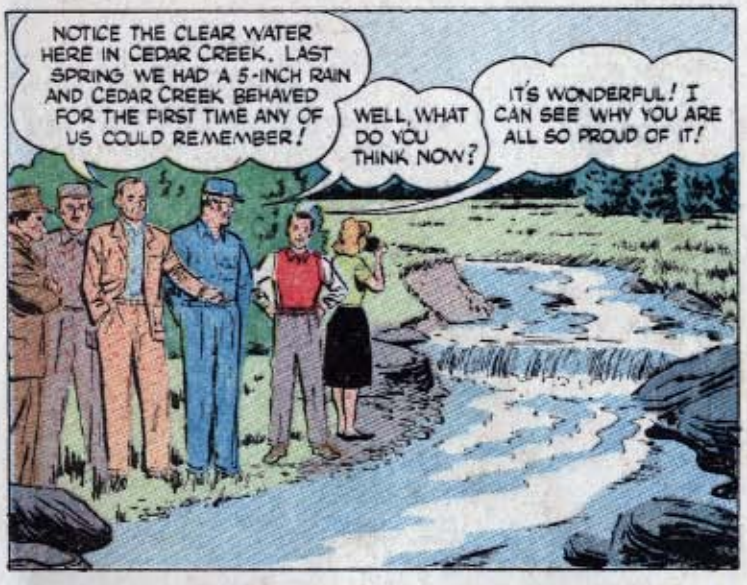


"SOME LEVEL FIELDS WERE TOO WET, SO WE GOT RID OF SURPLUS WATER BY PUTTING IN TILES.

"AND IT GROWS MORE OF EVERYTHING INCLUDING FOOD AND COVER FOR PHEASANTS AND RABBITS"



"A SMALL POOL IS USUALLY LEFT WHICH PROVIDES RECREATION. AND WE'VE SEEN DEER WATERING HERE"



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